

JOHN P. SARBANES
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003
www.sarbanes.house.gov

426 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4016
FAX: (202) 225-9219

600 BALTIMORE AVENUE
SUITE 303
TOWSON, MD 21204
(410) 832-8890
FAX: (410) 832-8898

44 CALVERT STREET
SUITE 349
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
(410) 295-1679
FAX: (410) 295-1682

April 10, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

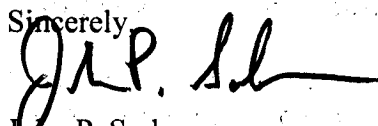
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and to applaud the commitment you made in your testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to move forward with regulations for the storage and disposal of coal combustion waste. The recent action taken by EPA – under your leadership – to set federal standards for the structural integrity of impoundments used to store coal ash slurry is an encouraging first step in this process.

I am writing today to urge the EPA to proceed expeditiously to develop comprehensive regulations for the storage and disposal of all forms of coal combustion waste in landfills or abandoned mines under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Federal standards are necessary to ensure public health is protected in the communities surrounding coal combustion waste disposal sites. The lack of a federal regulation has had severe consequences across the country. By 2007, EPA had confirmed at least 24 cases in which human or ecological health had been severely compromised by coal combustion waste dumping.

In my own District, in 2007, Maryland health officials determined that a dump with 8 billion pounds of fly ash in Gambrills had contaminated two dozen drinking wells with dangerous levels of cancer-causing heavy metals. The State levied a \$1 million fine against the utility and the landfill. Last year, the Natural Resources Committee heard testimony from the Maryland Secretary of the Environment as well as a resident of Gambrills about the impact of this serious problem. Maryland has since promulgated state regulations but there is still a need for a minimum federal standard.

I look forward to working with you on this and many other issues. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress